

THE
TURKISH REFUGEE:

BEING
A NARRATIVE
OF THE
LIFE, SUFFERINGS, DELIVERANCES, AND
CONVERSION,

OF
ISHMAEL BASHAW,

A MAHOMETAN MERCHANT, FROM CONSTANTI-
NOPLÉ, WHO WAS TAKEN PRISONER
BY THE SPANIARDS, AND MADE
A WONDERFUL ESCAPE
TO ENGLAND.

Where, having become a Convert to the Christian Faith,

HE WAS
PUBLICLY BAPTIZED,

WITH
THE APPROBATION OF THE RIGHT REVEREND
The Lord Bishop of Lincoln.

"Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum."

VIRGIL.

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers."

PAUL.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the BENEFIT of I. BASHAW and his Family, and
sold by him :---also,

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P R E F A C E.

THE following singular Narrative was taken, unsolicited, from the lips of the unhappy stranger to whom it relates, and is printed without any other view, than to his benefit and that of his family, who appeared to be great objects of compassion. It is penned with the utmost simplicity, without aiming at any sort of embellishments, and without attempting to vindicate or explain any thing that may appear marvellous or inconsistent in the facts related, or censurable in the person himself. If any readers should find any circumstances mis-stated, it is requested that they will candidly impute it either to the ignorance of the narrator, (who is a man of no education, and very imperfectly acquainted with the English language, and even with his own country, which he left in early life;) or to the writer's having misunderstood him, who found no small difficulty in

procuring from him a clear and orderly narrative. With regard to his integrity, those who have had the best opportunity of forming a judgment concerning it, are ready to bear the most honourable testimony, as well as to his moral character in general.

No one can read this account of Mr. BASHAW, without thinking, that whatever indiscretions may be imputed to him, he has met with very hard treatment, though he has also found many kind friends in various parts of the kingdom.

His journey to London, with which his narrative closes, was taken in the year 1789, and was not wholly unsuccessful. He brought with him recommendations from many respectable and well known friends in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, which induced several ministers of the gospel to exert themselves on his behalf. At this time it was that one of them, being greatly struck with his case, desired him to relate an account of his life, and took it down in writing, with a view to print it for his benefit. The circumstances which occasioned so long a delay, it is of no importance to mention. It is sufficient to say, that

that the publication is not now unreasonable, since Mr. BASHAW has been hitherto disappointed in his hopes of a lasting settlement, and finds occasion still to lead that wandering life to which he has so long been accustomed.

What has happened to him since the following account was taken, the writer of it does not know, excepting that he has spent some considerable time at *Colchester*, where he has experienced much kindness, especially from the Rev. Mr. HOBBS. Other particulars he himself is left to relate for the satisfaction of such as may have the curiosity to enquire.

Happy will the publisher of this narrative esteem himself, if by making his case more generally known, it should be the means of procuring him any substantial and permanent relief. But more happy still, if it should excite any humane and public spirited readers to exert themselves for procuring a legal provision for the relief of destitute foreigners, who like this unfortunate man, are cast upon the generosity of Englishmen, among whom it is to be feared many, like him, notwithstanding the boasted charity of the English nation, suffer dreadful hardships from the brutality of the lower classes

ses of the people, and even from the cruelty of parish-officers, and the want of humanity or activity in some of our magistrates.

Among all the different species of that charity which Christianity so strongly inculcates, there is no one more important, or more strongly enforced, than HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS; which the Saviour and Judge of mankind kindly esteems, and which he tells us he will at the last day publicly acknowledge, as shewn to himself, saying, "I was a stranger and ye took me in."

Some copies of this publication are given to Mr. BASHAW, to sell in the places where he travels. Others are sent to his friends in different parts of the country where he has resided, who have kindly and voluntarily undertaken to dispose of them for his benefit. If any benevolent persons who may purchase them of the bookfellers named in the title page, should be inclined to give more than the price of the pamphlet, the said Bookfellers will receive their donations, and convey them to Mr. BASHAW, who will thankfully accept the smallest sums.

Feb. 14, 1797.

THE

TURKISH REFUGEE :

NARRATIVE

OF

ISHMAEL BASHAW.

I WAS born in *Turkey*, in the City of *Adrianople*, in the year 1735, and was brought up in the Mahometan religion. My father's name was *Abraham Bashaw*, who was a man of considerable property and figure. He carried on an extensive business in the silk manufactory, and was besides an officer in the 31st company of janizaries belonging to the Grand Signior. My mother's name was *Cotinjah Futma*, a woman of good family, whose fortune was twenty thousand pounds. I was the eldest of five sons, and was named *Ishmael*.

In *Turkey* the husband has no title to the wife's fortune, but upon her death it descends to her children ; which in a country where concubinage so much prevails, is a wife provision, without which the children of the proper wife would be liable to suffer

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by those of the concubines, who are frequently numerous : my father had not less than a hundred, and children by all of them.

Upon my mother's death, according to the usage of the country, and in compliance with her dying request, I, as the eldest son, claimed her fortune ; which (as is common for want of other security) was contained in a chest in the house, and likewise her jewels and other valuable effects, to be divided between myself and my four brothers. My father, on account of the other expensive part of his family, refused this legal demand ; upon which a warm contest ensued, which ~~proceeded to~~ acts of violence. He having drawn his sword, I being of an equally furious temper, had recourse to mine, in my own defence. I fortunately gave him a wound which induced him at once to yield ; so that I took immediate possession of my mother's fortune and effects, and equitably divided them among my brothers, keeping 5000l. to my own share as the eldest.

My father soon after resigned his place as a janizary, and got me into it ; which he did, not so much out of kindness to me, as with a view to my being under the restraints of that office, on account of the natural violence of my temper. I was at this time only eighteen years of age, but was married to a young lady who was not more than twelve. Such early marriages in Turkey, are not uncommon. My wife possessed a fortune superior to that of my mother. By her I had two children, and I carried

on the same business with that of my father, which was very lucrative; and my place as janizary brought me in two guineas a day; so that I lived in affluence, and was enabled to follow the common custom of my country in keeping concubines, of whom I had no less than twenty-three. Moreover, being of a lustful disposition, I indulged it in the manner the Turks frequently do, especially those in affluence and power, by having recourse to the wives of Jews and Christians; whose situation in Turkey is in this respect truly deplorable, being continually liable to this brutal violence, without any means of defence, or their husbands of redress. The recollection of these shameful and barbarous excesses fills me with bitter remorse.

One part of my business, as janizary, was to collect the revenues of the Grand Signior, particularly a poll-tax upon Jews and Christians, which frequently gave me access to his presence, though I never saw his face; it being required of his servants to approach him with their backs towards him. In virtue of my office I was sometimes called to such acts of barbarity as were too much for my spirits, fierce and cruel as I naturally was. The Turks are rigorous in their attachment to justice; and the violation of it, especially in magistrates, is punished with the most shocking severity, by flaying the skin from the head of the delinquent while he is alive, which being stuffed, is carried to the Grand Signior. I was called to three of these terrible executions, one

of which so hurt my feelings, that I was determined to resign my office, though I could not do it without great difficulty. The anguish of this poor wretch was so extreme, that when I had got off his skin on one side down to his neck, I purposely cut his throat, to put him out of his misery, and pretended it was owing to a slip of the razor, crying out, to those who stood by with drawn swords, to see the execution properly performed, "Lord have mercy! I have cut his wind-pipe." In this piece of humanity I run the risk of losing my own life, for had it been perceived that I did it designedly, I should have had a sword thrust through my body. I determined however never to perform so inhuman an operation again, and therefore feigned myself ill, and actually took some drugs to make me so, which had the desired effect; a physician pronouncing my health to be so bad, that I had liberty to resign my office.

On recovering my health, I applied myself solely to trade and merchandize. I freighted a zebeck, carrying 16 guns, and sailed from *Tunis* for *Smyrna*, with captain Abraham. My cargo consisted of seven cwt. of cochineal, and seventy cwt. of wax, twenty-five boxes of red cloth for turbans, one hundred yellow skins, three boxes of the best sort of coral, one hundred pair of swan-skin blankets, two hundred dozen of morocco skins, one hundred and forty dozen of others, fifty surets or bags of dates, and sundry other goods, with twelve black men, and five women, with intent to sell the whole cargo at *Smyrna*.

Smyrna. I had moreover on board a large chest of gold ; the exact sum I cannot tell, for in consequence of the want of education, so common in Turkey, I was unacquainted with figures, as our merchants in general are, who are therefore obliged to employ clerks of other nations to transact their business, chiefly Jews and Greeks.

Two Spanish privateers, one of twelve, the other of eight guns, coming up with us at four o'clock in the morning, we fought six glasses ; till there remained out of fifty men only twenty-three, and twelve wounded ; and all our powder being expended we were obliged to surrender. Finding my situation desperate, I run in haste to break open my chest, and took out several handfuls of gold, which I secreted in my belt, and which I afterwards found of use.

We were taken to *Carthagena*, where I and my clerk, *Antonio*, a Greek, were put into prison in the same apartment, where we were kept in close confinement a whole year. We were supplied with provisions, but chiefly such as the Mahometans are forbidden to use, namely, pork and wine. However, necessity has no law. Indeed I did not for a considerable time know what the pork was. At length we were brought out of prison, and made to work in the Spanish galleys. We were also employed in serving masons, who were erecting some high buildings, chained to each other by the leg, in which situation we were compelled to ascend the ladders. But the

height of them making me giddy, obliged me to refuse going up; which exposed me to the severe resentment of my employers, who then obliged me to carry heavy loads of stones for the building.

At length an order came from the king of Spain, for three hundred Turkish slaves to be carried to *Madrid*; I was of the number; and an account being given of my refusing to work, (though I only objected to ascend the ladders) I was treated with great austerity. My temper being violent, I answered an officer with too great freedom, for which I was threatened that I should rot in prison. I was ordered to be branded with a hot iron, on the top of my head, with the sign of the cross, the marks of which are still visible. This occasioned a terrible sore. I was then taken to prison with my clerk Antonio, and put in irons. Here I was kept in close confinement for five years. This prison is situated near a public road, and having open windows * with iron bars, I had an opportunity of seeing many persons pass, and of conversing with those whom curiosity led to speak to the prisoners; among whom some ladies often came and enquired from whence and for what reason we were brought thither, and sometimes gave us money.

Having formed a design of making my escape from this prison, for which the situation of it appeared very favourable, I used to make enquiries of

* See Howard's account of it in his book on foreign prisons.

those visitors concerning the roads. But in order to prevent any suspicion, I asked not whither the different roads led, but which way the different travellers were going. By the answers they gave to my enquiries, (which appeared to them the mere effects of curiosity) I got a pretty good idea of the country, and particularly of the road to Portugal, which it was my design to take.

I wished previously to inform the English consul at Oporto, of my situation, and of the plan I had formed, that he might be prepared to receive me when I should be able to get thither, and therefore I employed my clerk to write him a letter, which I myself was incapable of doing; for few among the Turks are able to write or even to read their own language. It was a singular felicity to me that I had this man for my fellow-prisoner. In this letter to the consul, who was *John White, Esq*; I requested the favour of him to write to a brother of mine, (who I had accidentally heard, was at that time in London, upon business, namely, to sell some fine horses,) to apprize him of my situation, and of the design which I had formed of making my escape. I made enquiry after some person who was going to Portugal, and presently met with one who was kind enough to take my letter, with the promise of delivering it safely, which I afterwards found he did.

Soon after I dispatched my letter I began to attempt my escape. Seeing some of my countrymen, who were employed as slaves, I got to the speech of

some of them, who performed friendly offices for me, buying me tobacco and other things which I wanted, and communicated to one of them my design of making my escape, in which he appeared ready to afford me his best assistance, and I encouraged him in so doing by the promise of a proper reward, which in his situation was acceptable enough. I desired him to buy me some aqua fortis, and a couple of spring saws. Though he ran some risque in this undertaking, he happily succeeded, and brought me what I wanted undiscovered, in the sleeve of his garment. I have these implements still in my possession, which I often view with unspeakable pleasure and thankfulness.

As soon as I got them, I dug up a stone in the floor of the prison and there buried them, to prevent their being discovered by the keeper. In three night's time I sawed through the principal of the iron bars in the prison window, taking care to conceal the crevices with dirt. I then applied myself with the saws and the aqua fortis, to get asunder the chain by which I and my clerk Antonio were bound together, but could not get off the fetters from my leg or his.

Between ten and eleven o'clock at night, towards the close of the year, I forced away all the bars of the window, and after carefully looking every way to see that no person was within view, we ventured to make our exit: which we did with a degree of joy that may easily be conceived, though not without a mixture of terror lest we should be discovered before

we

we had got out of reach. My clerk indeed was so terrified at the apprehension of being detected, that he was rather averse to the attempt, and in the critical moment began to cry in such a manner, that I found it necessary to threaten, if he would not be quiet I would instantly run him through. We took the public road to Portugal, and providentially met no body to raise any alarm, or to interrupt our progress all the night. It is needless to say that we travelled with all possible expedition; which indeed considering the incumbrance upon our legs, was greater than might be imagined, for by day-light we had gone near fifty miles.

We were however under continual apprehension of being pursued, and therefore thought it not safe to travel in the day time, especially as the irons on our ancles might have excited suspicion in persons that should meet us, and occasion our being stopped. We therefore left the road in the morning, and betook ourselves to a wood, where we climbed into a large oak tree, at about a stone's cast from the way side, from whence we had a distinct view of what passed, and were not without apprehension of seeing our pursuers. Accordingly, we had not been many hours in this situation before we discovered two men, whom we took to be persons belonging to the prison, who were in quest of us. As they drew near we were fully confirmed in this supposition, by their conversation. We distinctly heard them cursing and swearing, threatening vengeance against us, if they

they should overtake us, which they seemed labouring hard to do, and one of them said, with a horrid imprecation, "if I could find that damned Turk, I would run him through the body."

The humane reader will feel for us, while he imagines to himself the terror we were in, lest these sanguinary messengers should cast their eyes towards the tree, and discover any appearance in it which might lead them to a nearer inspection. I well remember that I earnestly lifted up my heart to God for his protection, and prayed that he would blind their eyes. With great thankfulness we observed that they did not turn their faces towards the wood, but kept on in the road towards Portugal. This effectually prevented all thoughts of pursuing our course as yet, so that we continued in the oak which had so happily protected us, and intended not to move till night came on, (though we began to feel the want of refreshment) and were fearful that even then it might be dangerous to proceed, unless we were certain that our pursuers were gone back. Happy for us, about four o'clock in the afternoon we saw them return. We now began to recover our spirits, and to think of pursuing our journey with safety. About ten o'clock we ventured down from the venerable tree which had afforded us such seasonable protection; the idea of which made so deep an impression upon my mind, that I never see a large spreading oak without thinking of this, and praising that God who directed me to such a refuge.

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As we apprehended our pursuers had given intelligence of us so far as they went, and probably employed persons to watch for and secure us, we now thought it unsafe to travel the public road, and therefore betook ourselves into by-ways. When we thought we heard any body near us, we stopped and secreted ourselves. But we met with no molestation all the night, and by the morning found ourselves within twenty-five miles of Portugal. We durst not pursue our journey in the day time; and, what was much worse, we were afraid to call at any place for refreshment; nor did we eat or drink any thing from the time we left *Madrid*, to the time we arrived at *Oporto*; except a little water from a brook.

The third night we got safe to *Oporto*, where, though our strength was exhausted with fatigue, fasting and anxiety, we almost forgot our weakness through the recruit of spirits which we experienced, in the hope of having got out of the reach of danger. We did not arrive at that asylum till between twelve and one o'clock. Seeing some persons in the street, I enquired of them where the English consul lived; (for I could speak Portuguese sufficiently to be understood) and they shewed me the house, which had a flag on the top of it. Upon ringing the bell, and acquainting the servant with our situation, we got admittance, though the consul was gone to bed. Refreshment was quickly brought, but our appetite was gone. We were so weak and faint as to have

little inclination to eat or drink. After eating a morsel of bread, I begged for a pipe of tobacco, but before I had smoaked it I found myself exceedingly sick. I drank a little wine, which threw me into a violent heat. My fellow traveller was worse than myself. A bed was got ready for us, and we were glad to betake ourselves to rest. Never was rest so sweet before.

The next morning the consul enquired of a servant who it was that rang the bell so late the preceding night. Upon being informed that two Turks were come from Spain, who had lodged there, he recollected the letter which I had sent him to apprise him of my design, and he told the servant to bid us make ourselves easy, as he would not suffer us to come to any harm. Between nine and ten o'clock we were sent for to breakfast with him. I threw myself at his feet and begged for mercy. He very kindly addressed me, and said, "Get up, Ishmael, you shall not be hurt." While we were at breakfast, he held a great deal of conversation with us, about our situation, &c. in a very affable manner, so as to engage our entire confidence.

After breakfast I took the liberty to request that a smith might be sent for to get the irons from our feet, which had been very troublesome and painful to us. This he objected to lest a discovery should be made, which might prove dangerous to us. He enquired how I got off the rest of the irons in the prison; upon which I shewed him my bottle of aqua fortis,

fortis, and spring saws. He seemed much pleased with my dexterity, advising me to attempt to get off these irons by the same means, and locking the door, he himself assisted me. He then gave the irons to a servant, ordering him to throw them into the sea; and gave us both permission to remain at his house till we had a convenient opportunity of sailing for *London*. His behaviour was so kind that I found myself easy and happy. My health also was soon recovered. But it was not so with my companion. He not only continued to feel the effects of his late extreme fatigue, but he suffered greatly from the uneasiness of his mind, on account of the dangers he might yet have to go through, and the difficulty of getting back to his own country. He often used bitterly to lament his situation, and tell me his distressing apprehensions with tears. I was deeply affected with the poor fellow's miserable state both of body and mind, and bid him not to distress himself in the manner he did; to which he used in a very piteous tone to reply, "O master, I cannot help it: indeed I cannot." All I could say to comfort him, was in vain. His dejection of spirits continued, and his bodily disorders increased, so that in about a week he died. And truly, considering the hardships we had gone through since our captivity, and the great fatigue we had endured in escaping to this place, his death was not so much to be wondered at as my life and health, for which I cannot be sufficiently thankful to God.

Through

Through the great indulgence and generosity of this worthy gentleman, I continued in his house between two and three years, and had every accommodation I could wish for. Still, however, I felt an earnest longing after my own country, and often used to retire into the garden to pay my devotions to God, after the Mahometan manner, prostrating myself on the ground, and earnestly entreating him to preserve me and bring me back to my native land. After I had been in Portugal about two years and a half, my kind patron informed me he had received intelligence that my brother *Ieufuph* (Joseph) was gone with the Algerine * ambassador to London. Upon which I determined to go to him there, that he might take me back with him. At length I provided a passage in a ship commanded by captain Addison, who, after performing quarantine, landed me at Dover.

Upon my arrival at London, I had the fore mortification to find that my brother was returned with the ambassador to Algiers as his secretary. Though I was here a perfect stranger, and could meet with none of my countrymen, it was a consolation to me that I was not destitute of the means of subsistence, having the money which I had secreted when my vessel was captured, for I had occasion to spend but little except in the article of tobacco. I took a lodging at Mr. *Pager's*, on Tower-hill. Here I

* i. e. as is supposed, the Ambassador from Algiers to Turkey.

lived comfortably a year and a half; and though I had been addicted to so much intercourse with women in Turkey, I here preserved the greatest degree of continence. I frequented the Exchange and the coffee-houses, in hopes of meeting with somebody with whom I might return home, but in vain. I was the less eager to go back on account of the shame of having been in captivity.

And now I have to relate a deplorable misfortune, which effectually detained me, and was the cause of many extreme sufferings. One evening as I was going to my lodgings, not far from Whitechapel, three fellows (who I suppose had got some knowledge of the treasure which I carried about with me) came up suddenly and stopped me. One of them caught hold of my arms, another seized me by the throat, and the third, with a large knife, cut off my belt, which besides the gold contained in it, had a diamond pendent at the end of it, which I had been told was worth a thousand pounds. I had a knife about me, but I durst not use it; and as to my sword, which I had been used to wear as part of my Turkish habit, I had before broken it to prevent suspicion of my intending any body an injury. I was much surprised as well as terrified at this robbery, in a christian country, having been used to think myself as safe here as at home, no such thing having happened within my knowledge in Turkey, excepting in deserts; and being accustomed to walk the streets in *Constantinople* at any hour with-

without the least apprehension of danger. It may well be supposed that I now began to entertain no very favourable idea of christians, and from this time I had such an abhorrence of *London*, that I determined as soon as possible to leave it. I first, however, made my case known at the coffee-houses, which I had been used to frequent, where I received several kind presents from gentlemen, and then I betook myself into the country, hoping to get some further assistance there.

I first of all went to *Bristol*, in hopes of getting a passage from thence, and of procuring some money to defray the expence; but I found myself worse off than I was in *London*. The money I had was exhausted, and I could meet with so little relief, that I was obliged to lie upon the stalls in the streets. At length, however, I met with a gentleman from *Salisbury*, who spoke French, of the name of *Mandrake*, (or something like it,) who, I believe, was a justice of peace, who seemed much disposed to befriend me. He advised me to return to *London*, and call at his house in my way. He procured me a lodging where I staid a month, and made a collection for me. When I returned to *London* I met with much abuse from the common people, carters, porters, &c. some of whom pulled me by my whiskers, and others threw me down; which circumstances, with the recollection of my former robbery, terrified me in such a manner, that I resolved not to continue here; and how to get a passage home I

knew

knew not, especially as I had no money to pay the expence of it.

I therefore resolved to go to *Scotland*, and from thence to seek a passage to the continent and then to travel on foot by the way of *Poland*. Meeting with an Italian who sold images about the streets, he directed me to go through *Yorkshire*. But not being able to read, I made an unfortunate mistake, and having got into a stage-coach, instead of going to *York*, I found myself at *Ipswich*. Here I could get no lodging, and slept for a month on the butchers' shambles. The little money I had was soon spent, so that I was reduced to the necessity of asking charity. Two gentlemen were particularly kind to me, *Mr. Wallis* and *Mr. Spooner*. The latter advised me to go to *Yarmouth*, in order to see after a vessel to take me homewards. When I came to *Yarmouth*, I could meet with no ship to answer my purpose. Alderman C——k gave me a guinea and advised me to return to *London*. I did so, but was not yet able to procure a passage, and therefore determined to pursue my plan of going to *Scotland*. To prevent a second mistake, I got a person to inform me of the towns I should pass through, and set out on foot, asking charity as I went. The first place at which I made any stay was *Doncaster*. Here

* The reader will think this traveller's plans very preposterous, and this part of the narrative will appear very extraordinary. The facts can only be resolved into his indiscretion and ignorance.

I could

I could get no lodging, but lay two nights in the streets upon the butcher's stalls. The next night a constable took me to a lodging, which proved much worse than that upon the stalls; for here an abandoned woman came into my bed, and upon finding me not to answer her purpose, she lodged a complaint against me, in consequence of which I was ill-used, and ordered to leave the town. But I was so weak that I was scarcely able to reach the next village, where two men took me up and put me into a barn upon some straw. The next day a man carried me in a cart part of the way towards *Northallerton*. Here I met with humane treatment. The justice of peace, who was a clergyman, procured a collection to be made for me, and sent me by a waggon to *Newcastle*, with a letter of recommendation to the mayor, who kindly relieved me.

From hence, having got better in my health, I went on foot to *Morpeth*, where I rested two or three nights, and met with kind treatment. The provost made a collection for me in the town. I then proceeded to *Berwick-upon-Tweed*, where I staid a week, making enquiry for a ship, but without success. Admiral *** gave me a guinea out of the box belonging to a charitable institution for poor sailors. I next went to *Dunbar*, in Scotland, where I received great kindness from Mr. *Alexander Watts*, who provided me a lodging, where I staid a fortnight, and procured me several friends. He introduced me to the Lord Provost, who, on my departure,

ture, wrote a letter of recommendation to the Duke of *Buccleugh*, at *Durkeith*. He received me with peculiar kindness, and permitted me to remain a month in his house. During my continuance here, his Grace made many inquiries concerning the customs of my country, and had frequent conversation with me (in the French language) on the subject of religion. He took me with him also to the kirk, which was the first time that I entered into a place of christian worship. I was much struck with the singing, and the reading of the scriptures, both which were new to me; for in the Turkish mosque there is no singing, nor is any book made use of; the emir (or priest) pronouncing every thing memoriter.

When I came back, the Duke was curious to know what I thought of the service. He bid me take my pipe and walk with him in the garden, where the Dutchess was pleased to accompany us, and I walked between them. His Grace, addressing me in a familiar and courteous manner, asked "Well, Ishmael, what think you of our Christian worship?" I expressed my surprise at seeing the minister make use of a book, and asked him what book it was? He told me it was the book of God Almighty. I told him that could not be, "for God Almighty never writes." Such was my profound ignorance even of my own religion, that I was unacquainted with the supposed revelation in the Koran. Indeed I thought that what our emirs deliver, they
received

received immediately from heaven. The Duke told me in what sense the bible is the book of God, being written by holy men inspired by him. This led to a conversation concerning Christianity, and the necessity of being saved by CHRIST, whose character and undertaking he endeavoured to explain, at the same time proving *Mahomet* to be an impostor. I maintained the superiority of Mahomet above Christ, and expressed the gross apprehensions I had entertained of him, "as not being born of woman, but sent immediately from heaven." I held a warm controversy with him on the Mahometan religion, which was afterwards frequently repeated. The Duke took great pains to convince me of my delusion; and by the blessing of God he at length succeeded so far, that I began to express to him my willingness to become a Christian, and asked him "which way I might be made one?" He instructed me in the nature of the christian faith, and of baptism as a profession of it. I enquired who must baptize me, and desired that the minister might be sent for to do it. He advised me to exercise patience, to consider the matter well, and to pray to God, in hope that he might shew me my sins, and change my heart, and thus make me a christian indeed. Hereupon I felt much distress of mind, and an earnest concern to know the truth, and was engaged fervently to beg of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, that he would lead me in the right way, and make me a true believer, that I might be saved. Great reason have I indeed

indeed to bless God for being brought to the house of this nobleman, whose endeavours were the first and chief means of bringing me to the knowledge of the gospel. I received also other kindnesses from him.

When I left his house, he gave me a letter to a minister in Edinburgh, whose name I cannot recollect, with whom I had much conversation, partly in Italian, and partly in Latin, which was very useful to my further information and establishment in the christian faith. He kept me a month at his house, in which time, I frequently desired to be baptized, but he also advised me to wait. He gave me a letter of recommendation to the Duke of H——, who lived on the road towards *Glasgow*, which place I intended next to visit.

I had not gone above six miles from *Edinburgh*, before I was attacked by robbers. On a large moor, in the middle of the day, two men stopped me, and took away my bag, in which I had some linen and other things which the Duke of Buccleugh had given me, and a five pound note. I begged of them to let me have what was in one of the pockets, in which the note was enclosed. Upon which they abused me as a Turk. I was rather violent in attempting to secure this part of my property, which provoked one of them, with horrid oaths, to strike a knife into my breast. When I drew it out the blood streamed from the wound. I put a handkerchief upon it, and went back to *Edinburgh* much exhausted,

exhausted, and related my case to the Lord Provost. He sent for two soldiers who could talk Spanish, who interpreted my account. There was reason to think that the villains had seen me at a public house at *Edinburgh*, where I first lodged. The Lord Provost sent for a surgeon who dressed my wound. I got a letter to be sent to the Duke of Buccleugh, to acquaint him with my case, and to request him to attest my character. He and his lady were so kind as to come to me immediately, and she was so much affected with my situation as to shed tears. They ordered me to an inn to be taken care of, and promised to pay the expence till I was well; and her grace desired me not to go without giving her notice. Here the above-mentioned minister visited me with great kindness, lamented my case, and told me these fellows who had used me thus basely were not true christians. I continued here six weeks.

I must now relate a singular adventure, at which some of my readers will smile, and all of them will be astonished. When I was at *Richmond* in *Yorkshire*, I had formed a connection with a young woman, whose name was *Elizabeth Forms*, with an intention to marry her; to which, notwithstanding the discouragements attending my situation, she was still inclined. I procured a letter to be written to her from *Edinburgh*, inviting her to come to me thither, to consummate the marriage; and such was her attachment to me that she readily came, with a view to accompany me to *Turkey*.

When I acquainted the minister at Edinburgh with my design, he expressed his surprise, and reasoned with me in order to dissuade me from it. Among other things, he told me how differently the women of this country are treated, from those of my own, and how much more indulgence they expect. He likewise talked freely with my intended wife about the disagreeable circumstances that would attend her leaving her native land, and going with me into Turkey, and particularly those which arise from the custom of keeping concubines. But we were strongly attached to each other, and I solemnly engaged fidelity to her, so that he consented to marry us. One circumstance which rendered her an agreeable companion to me was, that she could talk the Spanish language, and thus could be my interpreter.

As soon as we were married, we set off on foot for *Glasgow*, where we met with friendship. We then went to *Carlisle*, and from thence to *Preston*, where my wife's relations lived, in a house of the Duke of *Bolton's*. Having taken leave of them we proceeded to *York*, where we staid two days, purposing to go from *Hull* to *Holland*. Miss *Ann M——t*, in the minister at *York*, who knew me when there before, was so kind as to give me a letter to a captain at *Hull*, and another to Sir *Joseph York*, the English ambassador at the *Hague*.

We went in the coach to *Hull*, having now thirty guineas, given me by different persons, and there
took

took a passage in a ship to *Amsterdam*, from whence we went to *Rotterdam*, and from thence to the *Hague*. I waited on the ambassador with the letter, and he behaved with great kindness, promising to look out for a vessel which might take us to *Turkey*. After a few days I called upon him again, when he informed me of a ship bound for *Smyrna*. I had put twenty-five guineas into his hands to pay our passage, and he gave me one for our support till the vessel sailed. I was now pleased with the prospect of a speedy end to my wanderings and distresses in a strange country, but soon found myself disappointed. The captain asked forty guineas for our passage. Sir *Joseph York* offered to make up thirty, and proposed that I should indemnify him for the rest by working in the vessel. But he said he did not want hands. and absolutely refused to make any abatement. This occasioned great distress at the time, but I have seen reason since to adore the good providence of God for this disappointment. For had I returned to my own country, I should have been tempted, for my own safety, to renounce christianity, in which I was as yet but a small proficient, and possibly to have returned to my former course of life, by which my wife would have been rendered miserable.

Sir *Joseph* argued with my wife the impropriety of going with me into *Turkey*, but she told him, wherever I went she would go. I was at first for continuing in *Holland*, but he strongly remonstrated against it, and advised us both to come back immediately

diately to *England*, to which we consented. I took a vessel to *Helvoetsluys*, and came to *Harwich*, where we both resolved never more to leave English ground. She was now near her time, which rendered our situation the more distressing, especially as it was Winter. We came by water to *Ipswich*, where we did not arrive till ten or eleven o'clock at night, and could get no lodging. I then said to my wife, "Come, my dear, and I will shew you where I lodged when I was at *Ipswich* before." I took her to the butcher's shambles, where we spent the night, which was very severe by reason of the frost and snow. She could get no rest, but sat by me while I slept. In the morning I went to the Ship and Lamb ale-house, but nobody being up, we begged leave to warm ourselves at a blacksmith's shop. When the public-house was open, I got a lodging there, but my wife was exceedingly ill, and could get but little rest. I was much alarmed for her on account of her approaching labour. I went to *M^r. Wallis*, an alderman of *Ipswich*, who signed a pass for us to *Norwich*. When we came to *Schoolin*, about twenty miles distant, I applied with the pass to a constable, who kept the Dolphin public-house. We here got some refreshment, which I offered to pay for, but the landlord, affecting great kindness, would take nothing, urged us to stay at his house several days, which we were induced to do, though we had rather have gone forward to *Norwich*. When at length we determined to go, he took us

in a cart, but instead of helping us on in our journey, he carried us to a justice of peace, Mr. C——, a brewer, pretending that we were common strollers, and said that we owed him twenty-five shillings. My wife related our case, and said that we had money to pay, which we offered to do, but that he refused to take it. Upon which the justice reprimanded him, saying, that he ought to lose the money, and discharged us. We then set off on foot for *Norwich*, walking a few miles at a time, my wife being very heavy and soon fatigued. In two days we arrived at that city, and were directed to a lodging at *St. Stephen's Gate*, at the sign of the King's Head. Having learned to make some little articles in wire, skewers, toasting-forks, roasting-jacks, &c. I carried them about the streets to sell them, and attended the market. Some Quakers took particular notice of me, and a certain benevolent lady of that sect took me to Mr. *Gallino*, a French school-master, in order that he might interpret the account I gave of myself. Having related my wife's situation, she undertook a collection, and made some necessary things for her and the child, and sent us some coals. She and her friends advised us to leave the public-house, and took a private room for us. In a week's time my wife fell in labour, which proved lingering. They procured a midwife for her, and attended her with great humanity, till she was safely brought to bed of a boy. Several other persons also administered

to

to our relief, for all which mercies I gave God hearty thanks.

The child being ill, my wife was desirous to have it baptized. The nurse applied to a clergyman to perform this office; but he refused to come without our paying a shilling for himself, sixpence for the clerk, and sixpence for the register. The good Quakers expressed their surprise and disgust, and gave my wife half a crown to pay these demands. I told my wife, that when the parson came, I wished she would desire him also to baptize me. When he had performed the service for the infant, we expressed to him our further request, to which he answered very roughly, "Do you think I will baptize a Turk, who cannot say the Lord's prayer? My wife begged of him that he would instruct me, to which he replied, "do you think that I can be at so much trouble?" The Quakers were as much hurt at this conduct as we were, and said, "he is a bad man."

While I was one day attending the market in this city, I met with much abuse from one J——s, a butcher, who so severely beat me, that I was provoked to knock him down in my own defence. The town-clerk went with me to the mayor, before whom I swore the peace against this man. His father begged me not to appear against him at the sessions, to which he was bound over, and paid me half a guinea which I had lost in the scuffle. Meeting with much trouble and ill-usage here, I went to Lynn.

My child died at a village in the way, and was there buried, the expences of which were paid by a friend to whom I sent at *Norwich*. When we got to *Lynn*, the bailiff took us up and carried us before alderman S——by, who reprimanded him, and said, that he had better have given us some relief. My wife was then ill. He took my examination in the French language, ordered me to stay as long as I pleased, made a collection for me, and gave me half a guinea himself. He invited me to dine at his house on a Sunday, when I always went to church. He likewise offered me his assistance if any one should use me ill. While I was here, I applied for Christian baptism, but was refused on account of the trouble of preparing me for it.

After six weeks continuance at *Lynn*, I went to *Wisbeach*, where I staid but a fortnight, as I could get no means of support. Here also I was refused baptism. From hence I went to *Spalding*, in *Lincolnshire*, but could sell nothing. On the Sunday I went to the church. At first only peeping in at the door, the congregation gazed, and the clergyman observing me, ordered the sexton to put me into a seat. He offered to take off my turban, which I refused, and the minister made signs to him to let me alone. After the service he bid him take me into the vestry. He did so, and locked the door, which very much alarmed me. I began to suspect that I had offended the Christians, by something unsuitable in their worship, and that I was going to suffer
some

some punishment. Very soon, however, my mind was relieved. The reverend Mr. *Dinham*, the rector, and his curate presently came to me with the appearance of kindness. One of them speaking French, held some conversation with me. He asked me, what I thought of the Christian worship. I told him "the ministers were not good." They asked me what I meant, and I told them how many of them had refused to baptize me. Mr. *Dinham* appeared much struck, and the curate joined him in censuring their conduct. He asked me if I wished to be a Christian. I told him I did, upon which he ordered me to come to him the next day. I expressed great gratitude to him, and begged he would make me a Christian.

I accordingly waited on him, when he informed me that, before I could be baptized, I must be able to say the Lord's prayer, the creed, and the ten commandments, which he offered to engage a schoolmaster to teach me. I thought with myself that the mere use of a little water, could not be of essential service, and wished to be effectually converted to Christ. Upon my expressing this to him, he gave me a book containing instructions to the Indians*, which my wife read to me, and I hope it was the means of bringing me to the knowledge of the gospel and the love of Jesus. I much wished to be able to read it myself, but could not attain to it.

* Probably Bishop Wilfon's.

And having acquired but little knowledge of English, it was difficult to learn what I had to get by heart.

However in eight months I had it perfectly, all which time I continued at this place making and selling my goods. At the expiration of this term, Mr. *Dinham* wrote to the bishop of Lincoln (Dr. *Green*) to acquaint him with my case, and consult him about my baptism. I carried the letter to his lordship, who asked me some questions, and heard me repeat my lesson, which I did without missing a word, and he thought me sufficiently qualified for baptism. But he told me, "I could not be baptized with my *whiskers*," which he carefully examined, to be satisfied that they were real. He then sent for a barber to cut them off and shave me. The bishop took my whiskers and put them into a paper. He then bid me take off my Turkish dress, and ordered a suit of cloaths to be brought for me. When I had put them on, he said, "now *Ishmael*, you look like an Englishman and a Christian." He also gave me some good advice; charged me not to live as I had been used to do in Turkey, and told me that I should now have more to answer for. He gave me a letter to Mr. *Dinham*, in which he informed him that he thought me fit for baptism.

Accordingly the next Sunday afternoon, Mr. *Dinham* having invited me and my wife to dine with him, baptized me in the church by the name of *James*, amidst a great crowd of spectators; several

veral of whom made me presents, which I was backward to accept, telling them that I did not profess the Christian faith for the sake of the loaves, and only wished to get an honest livelihood by my business. Mr. *Dinham* (who was a justice of peace) afterwards administered to me the oath of allegiance, and the Sunday following gave me the Lord's Supper, which I continued to receive in other parish churches. In a fortnight I left *Spalding*, and waited on the bishop of *Lincoln*, to return him thanks. He gave me his blessing, with a present of half a guinea. He also promised me his assistance in case of my meeting with any difficulty.

I next went to *Gainborough*, and from thence to *Black Barnsley*. In my way thither, I was met by a person on horseback, whom I afterwards found to be a justice of the peace, who stopped me, and in a rough manner, demanded who I was, and what right I had to travel the country. Provoked by his manner, I answered him too rudely, which made him the more severe. A man in the road telling me it was justice W——n, I altered my language, and gave him my printed case. He took my pocket-book, containing the certificate of my baptism and other things, out of my pocket, and put it into his own. He then ordered some men who were at work near the road, to take me and my wife into custody. They took us before justice H——t, who said that if I was a Turk it was impossible I should have been baptized. I told him the Turks were

more honest than Christians. I also reminded him, that since the church of England prayed for the *conversion of Turks and Infidels*, it supposed that such a conversion as I professed was not impossible. Upon which he upbraided me with reflecting upon the church of England. I desired him to write to Mr. *Dinham*, for my character, before he confined me. He said he would send me to Bridewell, and I should die there. As we were going with the constable through the street, we were met by the reverend justice *Wood*, who had known us when in Yorkshire before. He said, they had no right to take us to prison. He gave me half a crown, and bid us make ourselves easy, saying, that they could not hurt us. However we were committed and sent to *Wakefield* bridewell. Here we were kept all the Winter, till the quarter-festivals, and treated like thieves, and put among them; who plundered us of every thing that we had, even of our cloaths, and of the tools with which I used to work. They also took what I valued more than any thing else, the good book which Mr. *Dinham* had given me. We had here wretched accommodations of every kind, and I suffered greatly for the want of tobacco, which I could procure even in the Spanish prison. The other prisoners also used us so cruelly, that I was once provoked to strike one of them, for which I was put in a separate apartment, and laid in irons. I had now a poor specimen of Christianity, which was almost enough to make me question the truth of it.

I con-

I contrived to get a letter written to Mr. *Dinham*, acquainting him with my miserable situation, and requesting him to write to justice *W——n*, on my behalf. He wrote immediately, and directed the letter to me, but added at the bottom, “for the acting magistrate.” The jailor opened the letter, and was putting it in his pocket. I had a struggle with him for it, and got it from him, for which he threatened to put me in the stocks.

When the sessions came on, my wife and I were chained together, and compelled to walk to *Doncaster*, which was above twenty miles, and were put that night in the prison there. When we appeared in court, and I was asked what I had to say in my defence, I answered that I did not see those who imprisoned us, but begged leave to shew the above letter*. The justice who took the letter, and an attorney to whom he shewed it, appeared much struck, and said we were falsely imprisoned, ordering us to be set at liberty, and to go where we pleased. I said I would rather not go, pleading that we had been illegally confined, cruelly treated, and robbed of all we had. They said they had no hand in it. I told them they were Christian magistrates, and that I expected justice from them. Mr. *Ward* exclaimed against their conduct, and said I ought to be indemnified. I told them I would die in prison before I

* Mr. *Bathaw* had a copy of it when this narrative was taken. He had also the other Testimonials.

would go without some compensation. Upon this, they spoke kindly to us, and gave us half a guinea a piece. Though this was much less than the injury we had sustained, I was content to take it, and said, "I profess to be a Christian; as such, I forgive you, and pray God forgive you."

We went to the house of Mr. *Ward*, in *Black-Barnsley*, a good old gentleman, who gave me a note to a constable to find us a lodging, and desired me presently to return to him. He ordered some refreshment to be brought for us; and Mrs. *Ward*, gave my wife some clothes. They collected eighteen shillings for us that day, and gave me a paper by which I obtained fifty more. We then went to *Sheffield*, where I fell ill with an ague and fever. A gentleman of the name of *Young*, who had traded to *Turkey*, was very kind to me in sending things for my relief. I hoped here to get a few tools and materials for carrying on my business, so as to earn a bit of bread. Having so far succeeded, I went back to *Spalding*, to thank Mr. *Dinham* for his kindness in writing on my behalf, and to seek his further protection. Mr. *Young* of *Sheffield*, sent to me hither three guineas and a quantity of wire. Mr. *Dinham* collected among his friends six or seven guineas, so that I was now well set up again in my business; and I determined not to leave this place, to travel about again, till I got some sort of security that I should not be taken up and confined. Upon which

Mr. *Dinham* kindly drew up a testimonial to my character.

My first remove was to *Stamford*, where Mr. *Morgan*, the son of a clergyman, recommended me to make chains for the cartridge boxes of some soldiers who were going to *America*, by which I took 5l. 18s. This however was but temporary employment; and I met with but little afterwards, though I experienced civil usage. I had been charged with living in adultery, because I was not a baptized Christian when I was married, and on this account some persons here advised me to be married over again. In order to avoid giving any cause of offence (though my marriage in Scotland might have been thought sufficient,) I readily yielded, and after being regularly asked in the parish church, I was married again by the reverend Mr. ———, occasional assistant to the rector, who afterwards gave me a certificate, of which I have a copy.

Having been at *Stamford* six weeks, I removed in hopes of finding a situation where I might with advantage carry on some business in dying. I travelled with my tin and wire goods, till I came to *Northampton*, where my wife sold a few of these goods, for I was taken very ill. Having a large tumour in my neck, I was sent to the hospital, where I was relieved as an out-patient. I met with much friendship in this town, particularly from Mr. *Woolley*, the schoolmaster, who, upon my application to him, and relating my case, recollected seeing the account of

my baptism in the newspaper, and held much conversation with me about my country, and my adventures. I continued at *Northampton* six months, but could get very little to do in the dying business, and was therefore advised to remove to *Daventry*, where there seemed to be a better opening for me. I therefore bought some drugs, to take with me thither. I first went to the Greyhound, near the shambles, and made my case known to several persons in the town, who seemed disposed to encourage me. The two Mr. *Checkley's* were particularly kind, and made a collection for me. They took me to the dissenting academy in this place, where the reverend Mr. *Robins* was tutor, whose young gentlemen contributed very generously for my relief. Hereupon I took a house, and by degrees I got it furnished. I presently got into business, and put up a board over my door. I went about into the neighbouring villages to sell my goods, and to get things to dye. My wife also did the same, and bought up vials for the apothecaries. While I was here I constantly attended the church on prayer-days, as well as Sundays, and on the Sunday evening used to frequent a lecture at the dissenting meeting-house. On the whole, I was happier here, and more likely to succeed, than I had been in any situation in England. But alas! my pleasing prospect was soon blasted, and a fresh storm gathered. After I had been settled here about two years, the bailiff sent for me and told me, that I was not free of the town, and

that

that I must not carry on business there, unless I purchased my freedom, which I found would cost five pounds, besides giving a treat to the parish officers. I could not well bear this expence, and not being sensible of the necessity of it, I refused. Upon which the bellman was ordered to go round the town, and desire nobody to deal with me. A gentleman from London hearing of this, and thinking me ill used, offered to procure me justice. However, finding my business entirely ruined, I thought it best to remove, which was the more disagreeable, as we had now another child. Many pitied our hard lot, and the bailiff himself collected fifty shillings for us. Having disposed of our goods, we went towards *Kettering*. We met with some friends here, particularly among the Dissenters, but we staid only a few days, and proceeded to *Lincolnshire*, for the third time.

At *Newark*, I met with some trouble from a butcher, who wantonly took a toasting-fork from me. Refusing either to pay for it, or give it me back, I attempted to seize it by force; upon which he fell into a violent rage, poured out horrible oaths, and was proceeding to lay violent hands upon me; when some ladies who had observed what had passed, kindly invited me into a shop, and sent to the bailiff, who ordered this base fellow to be brought to him. While he was in his presence he cursed and swore terribly, and the bailiff, who took my part, noted his oaths, and fined him for them to the amount of twenty-

twenty-five shillings, and gave me five shillings damages. After this, I staid a month here peaceably, got some charity, and sold some goods, so that my ill-treatment turned to my advantage. In my way back from *Newark*, I stopped at *Grantham*, and here I met with another disagreeable circumstance, which however, in the issue proved beneficial to me. As I was smoking my pipe at the door of my lodging, two fellows came up to my wife, who was with me, and treated her with great abuse, as if she had been a common prostitute. I took them before the bailiff, who bound them over to the quarter sessions. My good friend, Mr. *Dinham*, being one of the justices, fined them fifty shillings, which he ordered to be paid to me.

From this place we went again through *Stamford* to *Spalding*, where we had many friends, and we had fresh occasion to make use of their generosity, as my wife was again near lying-in. The parish-officers opposed our staying, and gave us some trouble; but several other persons took our part, and renewed their kindness to my wife during her confinement. As soon as she was recovered we went again to *Wisbeach*, where I took a house, and got some business in dying. I went about the country with goods, and attended the market at *Lynn*. Finding some encouragement here, I continued two months, my wife carrying on part of the business at *Wisbeach*. During this period, a disagreeable affair happened

happened, which I rather relate as it was the occasion of an alteration in my mode of religion.

I had been used constantly to attend the worship of the church of England, and to receive the sacrament. One Sunday when I was at the church at *Lynn*, two boys fought in the time of service: upon my speaking to them, one of them began to damn my eyes. This occasioned me to give him a stroke with my stick. Upon this he cried out so loud as to cause a disturbance in the congregation. The clergyman, who was then in his sermon, beckoned to the sexton to enquire the cause. The sexton representing me as the author of this confusion, was ordered to detain me. When the service was done, I was taken to the vestry, and the parson severely reprimanded me. I related to him the whole of the affair, and told him that I thought what I had done was right, and no other than what the honour of God's house required. He however discovered more resentment against me than against the boys, and told me that if I did the like again, he would have me put into a place of safety; upon which I told him I should give him no occasion of offence any more. Such conduct as this excited in my mind such a prejudice, that from this time I determined never to hear him again, and went among the dissenters; by whose preaching I found myself better instructed in the knowledge of the gospel. This clergyman (who knew me very well) seeing me afterwards in the market, affected to speak kindly to
me,

me, asked me how I did, and told me he had not seen me lately at church. I said, "I did not wish to give him any more offence; and that he ought to have corrected the boys rather than me." He then asked, "Where do you go?" I answered, "Where the gospel is preached." Finding that I went among the dissenters, he said, "I thought you knew better. Do you benefit there?" I told him I hoped I did much better than at his church, as there was no swearing, &c.

He acquainted alderman S—— by (who had been kind to me) with what had passed. Upon this the alderman talked to me on the subject; when I told him, that as I had left Mahometanism for Christianity, I wished to be fully instructed in the Christian religion. He behaved very well to me and seemed satisfied. Soon after this the alderman was taken dangerously ill, and sent for me to his bed-side, when he had a great deal of religious conversation with me; and promised, that if he recovered, he would take care of me, and spend a hundred pounds to set me up in business. He was advised to go to *Bath*, and there he died. He left me ten pounds, and desired his friends to be kind to me. His father gave me some of his clothes, and among others a suit of mourning. His sister gave me two guineas, and others of the family made me handsome presents.

I continued my business at *Wisbeach*, and went to *Norwich* to attend the markets. When I was there on a Sunday I frequented the meetings, but at length
attended

attended constantly at the reverend Mr. *Newton's*, to whose house I was introduced by Mr. *Clark*, a stuff-weaver. They advised me to come and settle at *Norwich*, thinking it would be to my advantage. I inclined to the proposal, and having disposed of my goods, I brought my wife thither. Several gentlemen espoused me, took a house for me of fifty shillings a year, and assisted in furnishing it. I followed my business in wire, and now also in tin-ware, which I had been instructed to make by Mr. *King*, at *Yarmouth*. I continued in this city seven years; but trade growing slack, I was obliged to seek out for another situation. I travelled about some time with the goods I made. My wife lying-in, was well taken care of, and a Scots society allowed her three shillings a week. Going again to *Ipswich*, I found friends there, particularly Mr. *N——t*. I was very desirous of getting into some other business, by which I might earn a livelihood, without the necessity of roving from place to place, and the rather as I much wished to become a member of some Christian church. This gentleman was much disposed to befriend me, and gave me a letter of recommendation to Mr. *Frost*, of *St. Edmund's-Bury*, who procured me several friends, by whom seven pounds were raised for my present exigence, and who also endeavoured more essentially to serve me, by placing me in some permanent employment. That of a shoemaker was first proposed, but I was thought too old to do any thing in it to good purpose, being then

forty-

forty-five years of age. The Rev. Mr. *W*———*ve* and some of his friends, advised my learning to comb wool, which appeared to me particularly eligible. I chose however, before I engaged in it, to consult my good friends at *Nerwich*. They expressed their approbation; but I thought, with my wife, it would be best first of all to make the trial whether I could learn the business. The advice however, of my new friends prevailed, and I removed my goods and my wife immediately, at a considerable expence, to a lodging provided for me at *Bury*. But this proved in the issue one of the most unfortunate steps that I had ever taken. My friends engaged one Mr. *M*——*d*, to teach me the business of wool-combing, who required seven pounds for his trouble, which I paid him, besides three pounds for implements. I applied myself to the work with all possible industry, but the men in the shop set themselves against me, because I did not treat them to their satisfaction; and my master (probably influenced by them) began to find fault with my work. Being put upon different parts of the business without having the necessary instructions, I of course failed of doing it in the proper manner, at which my master was much displeased, and complained that I spoiled his wool. I begged him to have patience with me, and to let me have more instruction; but he was greatly enraged, and refused to let me have any more wool. My landlord coming upon me for rent, I referred him to my master,

master, who had deducted one shilling and sixpence out of my wages to pay it, having made himself responsible for my lodging; but he refused paying it, and said that I had spoiled more wool than my wages came to. My landlord thought me ill used, and behaved kindly to me. As I had not been properly instructed in the business, I demanded the premium back again, and applied to the magistrate for this purpose, but without success; though he thought my case so hard, that he bought me a little cart and an ass to draw it, and gave me half a guinea, to assist me in the removal of my family from the town, which, though it was now become necessary, was particularly painful, as I had two small children, and my wife was big with a third.

I first went to *Nayland*, where my wife was delivered. In six weeks I left this place, and my infant died at a village in my way to *Ipswich*. While I was there I had another child born, and met with much opposition from the parish officers, for bringing my family thither again, and they would have put me into prison, but the bailiff ordered me relief, and Mr. *Clark* and Mr. *Spooner*, much befriended me. The Rev. Mr. *Edwards* also was kind to me and baptized my child, which died soon afterwards. I visited *Woodbridge*, and *Framlingham*, where I sold some goods and met with friends. At length I returned to *Norwich*, with my wife and two children. After I had been here about five months, selling my tin and wire-ware, I got employment

ment from Mr. *Moor*, a dyer, for four months, till through the failure of business he was obliged to dismiss all his men. I was the last, and he gave me a very honourable testimonial in writing. My wife was now pregnant again. Several persons shewed us kindness, but for want of work, I was obliged to seek some other situation, and went to *Beccles*.

Here I practised dying and dressing of hats; and for the first year had pretty good business; but I soon found it necessary to travel as I had before done. Now, besides the articles of tin and wire, I attempted to sell some books, to which I was advised by the Rev. Mr. *Heptinstall*, who was very kind to me. Here my wife lay in again, and met with friends. But still misfortunes attended me.

I took a journey to *Newmarket*, and *Cambridge*, with an ass loaded with my own manufactures, and a good quantity of books and pamphlets. As I was going up *Hogmagog-hill*, I was met by a man on horseback, who robbed and abused me. Having no money, he cut off my baskets and took away one, which contained goods that cost me near three pounds. He swore dreadfully, asked me my country, and damned me for being a Turk. He also gave me several severe blows with a club. I went to *Cambridge*, designing to attend *Stunbridge* fair, but had very little left to sell. I made my complaint to the mayor, who attempted to discover the villain, but in vain. The Rev. Mr. *Sanders* kindly administered to my relief.

I got

I got a person to inform my wife of my fresh misfortunes, who, upon reading the letter, shed tears. My eldest girl, who was about six years and a half old, (an intelligent and affectionate child) observing her mother weep, enquired the cause. On her declining an answer, she insisted upon it that the letter was from her father, and that something in it made her cry, earnestly desiring to know what it was. At length her mother related to her the contents of the letter, with which the poor child was deeply affected, expressing her earnest wish to have me return; and afterwards frequently asking her mother when I should come home, and grieving that I staid so long. The recollection of this tenderness of my poor child, often affects me much; and the more as at this time she was very ill of a consumption brought on by a cold, after the measles, and did not live to enjoy the satisfaction of seeing my safe arrival. The affectionate parent will sympathize with me in reading the account of this severe trial; but yet more tenderly on being further informed, that while I was on this unfortunate journey, my other two children were ill also, one with the evil, the other with a worm-fever, and that they were all three dead and buried before I got back. The tender mother will also drop a tear, to think of the situation of my wife on this occasion, who lost three children in the space of as many days; for the first died on Thursday night, the next on Friday morning, and the last on the morning of the following sabbath: in addition

addition to which complicated affliction, her husband was at a distance struggling hard to get bread for his family, and she received the intelligence of his losing almost his whole stock, and narrowly escaping with his life. Nor was this all; but the extremity of her distress occasioned the officers of the parish to encrease it, by attempting to send her away. She informed me of her situation by letter, and desired my speedy return. I made as much haste as I could, and found her so ill, (partly through great fatigue, she being but weakly, partly through poverty, and principally through grief,) that there was but little hope of her life. Mr. H. endeavoured to comfort me, and in his sermon and prayers, the following Sabbath, took such affectionate notice of my case, as contributed to my support. I felt myself resigned to the will of God, and soon had cause for devout thanksgiving on account of my wife's recovery. Still however I was involved in deep distress on account of my strait circumstances, which was much encreased by the demand of twenty-five shillings for the burial of my children, and more by another person's coming to set up in my business, so that I had no prospect of getting a living. I therefore once more sold all I had, and left this place where I had been three years.

I next went to *Walpole*, where I staid six months, and got some business, as well as some charitable assistance, particularly from the Rev. Mr. *Walker*, and his family. From hence I removed to *Framlingham*,

ham, where I had the prospect of some encouragement, as I found no other person in the town who carried on the same business. I met with several friends here, among whom I must mention the Rev. Mr. *Toms*, with peculiar respect and gratitude. But here my old difficulties followed me, particularly when my wife lay in of her tenth child, which is the only one now living. Several persons set their faces against me, as I did not belong to the parish, and when I wanted relief I was obliged to apply to justices at a distance. They however kindly interposed on my behalf, and ordered all necessaries in the time of our extremity. Since I have been here I have found it requisite to travel all round the country to vend my goods, and solicit charity. At *Debenham*, *Hadleigh*, *Sudbury*, and other places I met with friends, whose generosity I gratefully acknowledge. But I and my family have been obliged to fare hardly, and still we are destitute of any bed but one of chaff.

Being worn down with difficulties and disappointments, and weary with being tossed about from place to place, I determined upon taking a journey to *London*, in hopes, by the recommendation of friends in the country, of getting such assistance as might enable me to become an inhabitant in some other place, where I might spend the remainder of my days in peace, and subsist by my honest labour.

Here

Here Mr. Bashaw's narrative ends. This journey to London was undertaken in the year 1787. For the issue of it the Reader is referred to the Preface.